

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT CHARLES MOHR BYLINER FIRST PAGE  
NEW YORK TIMES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, HEADED, "CARTER,  
ON MORALS, TALKS WITH CANDOR.
2. HARRISBURG, PA., SEPT. 20 -- JIMMY CARTER HAS SAID  
IN AN INTERVIEW THAT HE HAS "LOOKED ON A LOT OF WOMEN  
WITH LUST" AND THAT HE HAD "COMMITTED ADULTERY IN MY  
HEART MANY TIMES," BUT THAT "GOD FORGIVES ME FOR IT."
3. THE REMARK, UNUSUALLY CANDID FOR A PRESIDENTIAL  
ASPIRANT, WAS MADE IN THE COURSE OF AN INTERVIEW TO BE  
PUBLISHED IN PLAYBOY MAGAZINE'S NOVEMBER ISSUE. IT  
WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF  
MR. CARTER'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN WHICH HE ASSERTED  
THAT HIS OWN MORAL STANDARDS WOULD NOT LEAD HIM TO TRY  
TO IMPOSE STRICTER LAWS ON PRIVATE BEHAVIOR.
4. THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IS QUOTED AS  
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SAYING THAT MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH,

WHICH IS HIS FAITH, BELIEVE IN "ABSOLUTE AND TOTAL SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE."

5. "THE THING THAT'S DRUMMED INTO US ALL THE TIME," MR. CARTER SAID, "IS NOT TO BE PROUD. I TRY NOT TO COMMIT A DELIBERATE SIN. I RECOGNIZE THAT I'M GOING TO DO IT ANYHOW, BECAUSE I'M HUMAN AND I'M TEMPTED."

6. MR. CARTER, WHO SAID EARLIER IN THE INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD "LOVED NO OTHER WOMAN" THAN HIS WIFE, THEN MADE HIS REMARK THAT HE HAD FELT DESIRE FOR "A LOT" OF WOMEN.

7. "THIS IS SOMETHING THAT GOD RECOGNIZES I WILL DO -- AND I HAVE DONE IT -- AND GOD FORGIVES ME FOR IT," MR. CARTER SAID.

8. "BUT," HE ADDED, "THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I CONDEMN SOMEONE WHO NOT ONLY LOOKS ON A WOMAN WITH LUST BUT WHO LEAVES HIS WIFE AND SHACKS UP WITH SOMEBODY OUT OF WED-LOCK."

9. MR. CARTER CONTINUED BY SAYING, "CHRIST SAYS, DON'T CONSIDER YOURSELF BETTER THAN SOMEONE ELSE BECAUSE ONE GUY HAS SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH A WHOLE BUNCH OF WOMEN, WHILE THE OTHER GUY IS LOYAL TO HIS WIFE." MR. CARTER USED A VULGARISM FOR SEXUAL RELATIONS.

10. MR. CARTER SAID, "I DON'T INJECT THOSE BELIEFS IN MY ANSWERS" TO SECULAR QUESTIONS.

11. MR. CARTER SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE REGARDS ALL FORMS OF EXTRAMARITAL SEX, HOMOSEXUALITY AND SODOMY AS SINS, WHILE HE WAS GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA, "I DIDN'T RUN AROUND BREAKING DOWN PEOPLE'S DOORS TO SEE IF THEY WERE FORNICATING. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

12. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW THAT MR. CARTER MADE THESE REMARKS IN ANSWER TO REPEATED UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE PUBLIC CONCERN THAT HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS MIGHT IMPINGE ON THE PRIVATE LIVES OF OTHERS, AND THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO DISPEL THAT FEELING.

13. MR. CARTER SAID THAT HAD HE KNOWN EARLIER IN LIFE "WHAT I NOW KNOW" HE "WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE SPOKEN OUT MORE CLEARLY AND LOUDLY ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE."

14. MR. CARTER ADDED THAT HE "WOULD HAVE DEMANDED THAT OUR NATION NEVER GET INVOLVED INITIALLY IN THE VIETNAM

WAR" AND THAT HE WOULD "HAVE TOLD THE COUNTRY IN 1972 THAT WATERGATE WAS A MUCH MORE HORRIBLE CRIME THAN WE THOUGHT AT THE TIME."

15. HE CALLED HIS FAILURE TO SPEAK OUT EARLY FOR A CESSATION OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND "THE FACT I DIDN.T CRUSADE AT A VERY EARLY STAGE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE SOUTH" EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL FALLIBILITY.

16. "THESE ARE OPPORTUNITIES OVERLOOKED, OR MAYBE THEY COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS ABSENCE OF COURAGE," MR. CARTER SAID.

17. MR. CARTER ALSO LINKED PRESIDENT JOHNSON WITH FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AS LEADERS WHO HAD ENGAGED IN "LYING, CHEATING AND DISTORTING THE TRUTH." HE HAD NOT BEEN SO CENSORIOUS OF MR. JOHNSON IN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS. ELSEWHERE IN THE INTERVIEW, HOWEVER, HE WARMLY PRAISED MR. JOHNSON.S CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD AND SAID "THERE HASN.T BEEN ANOTHER PRESIDENT IN OUR HISTORY -- WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN -- WHO DID SO MUCH TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS."

18. MR. CARTER LATER DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE INTERVIEW TODAY IN ANY DETAIL, SAYING HE HAD NOT READ IT. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED NO CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT IT MIGHT HAVE ON THE ELECTION.

19. HIS PRESS SECRETARY, JODY POWELL, SAID THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERVIEW "GAVE A VERY GOOD INSIGHT" INTO MR. CARTER, ADDING THAT THE WHOLE POINT OF THE INTERVIEW WAS THAT IT SHOWED MR. CARTER WAS A MAN WHO WAS VERY RELUCTANT TO JUDGE OTHERS.

20. "I SUSPECT THE FACT THAT THERE IS A SALTY WORD OR TWO IS NOT GOING TO BE NEARLY OF AS MUCH CONCERN TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AS SOME FOLKS ARE GOING TO THINK IT IS," MR. POWELL SAID. "I.M NOT AWARE THAT THE USE OF A SALTY WORD OR TWO IN THE PAST HAS BEEN CONSIDERED A DISQUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE," MR. POWELL SAID.  
END TEXT. ROBINSON

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